

ST Catherines
CHURCH



ADVENT 2: A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS
SUNDAY DECEMBER 6, 2020
10 AM FAMILY SERVICE – LIVESTREAM



President: Rev. Sharon Smith

Music: Siiri Rebane
Melanie Hackett (fiddle)
Alice Korfman

Reader 1& 2: Mermi

Intercessor: Linda Robertson

Altar Guild: Bonnie Grundy

Door Décor: Lori Burns

Sound: Susana Valente

Livestream: Gordon Lee
Armin

Welcome and Intentions: Rev Sharon

Gathering of the Community:

Presider: In this time and place
 We gather on the unceded
 ancestral lands of the Squamish
 and Tsleil-Waututh nations

Prepare the way of the Lord
(Solo)

Lighting of Altar candles and Advent Candle



Presider: Eternal Light, shine into our hearts,

All: Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,

Presider: Eternal Friend be our support,

All: Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,

Presider: Eternal Mercy, we receive your kindness,

**All: That with all our heart and mind
and soul and strength.
We may seek your face and be
brought into your presence;
Through the Coming light of Christ.
Amen**

*Prayer by Alcuin of York- adapted c 735-804
contributed by Bonnie Grundy*

Presider: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

All: Also with you

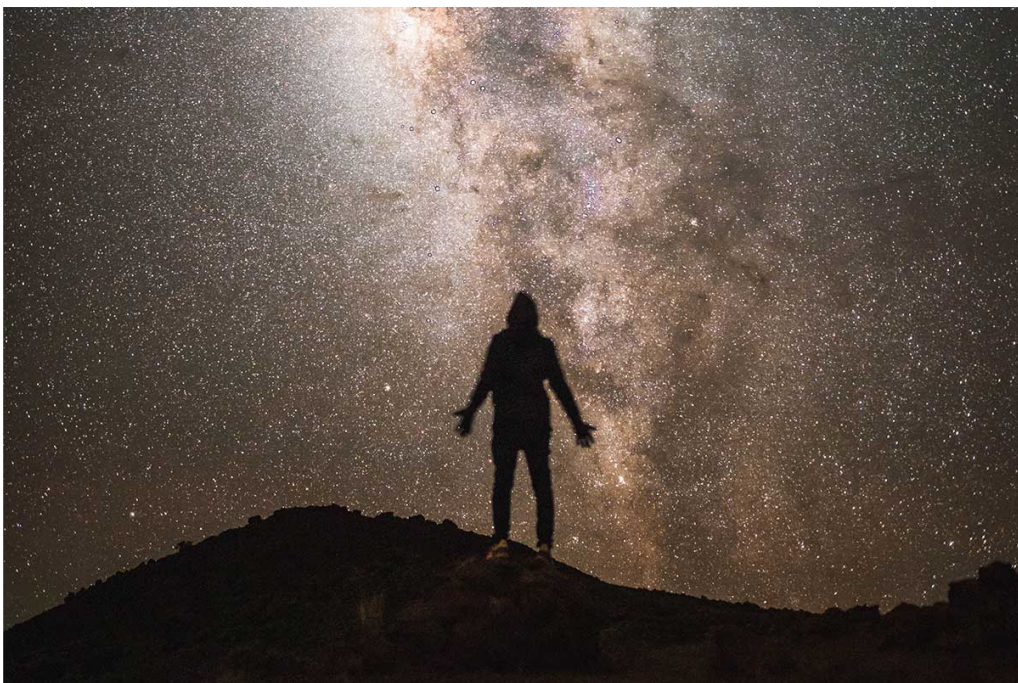
Opening Hymn: There's a Voice in the Wilderness

· There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord our God may go!

O Zion, give voice to good tidings,
Ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
The works of pride all perish,
like flowers they shall decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away,

But Your word, O God, is faithful,
Your arm, O Lord, is strong;
You stand in the midst of nations,
and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd,
and lambs will gently hold,
in pastures of peace you'll lead them,
and bring them safe to the fold.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord our God may go!



Prayer of the Day :

Presider: God of timeless grace,

**All: You fill us with joyful expectation.
Make us ready for the message that
prepares the way,
so that with uprightness of heart and
holy joy we may eagerly await the
coming of Christ, Amen.**

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy) :

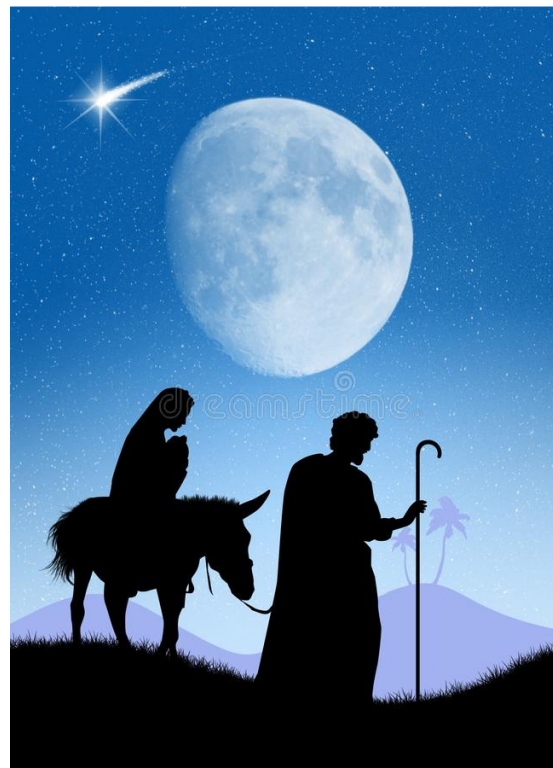
Kyrie eleison (2x)

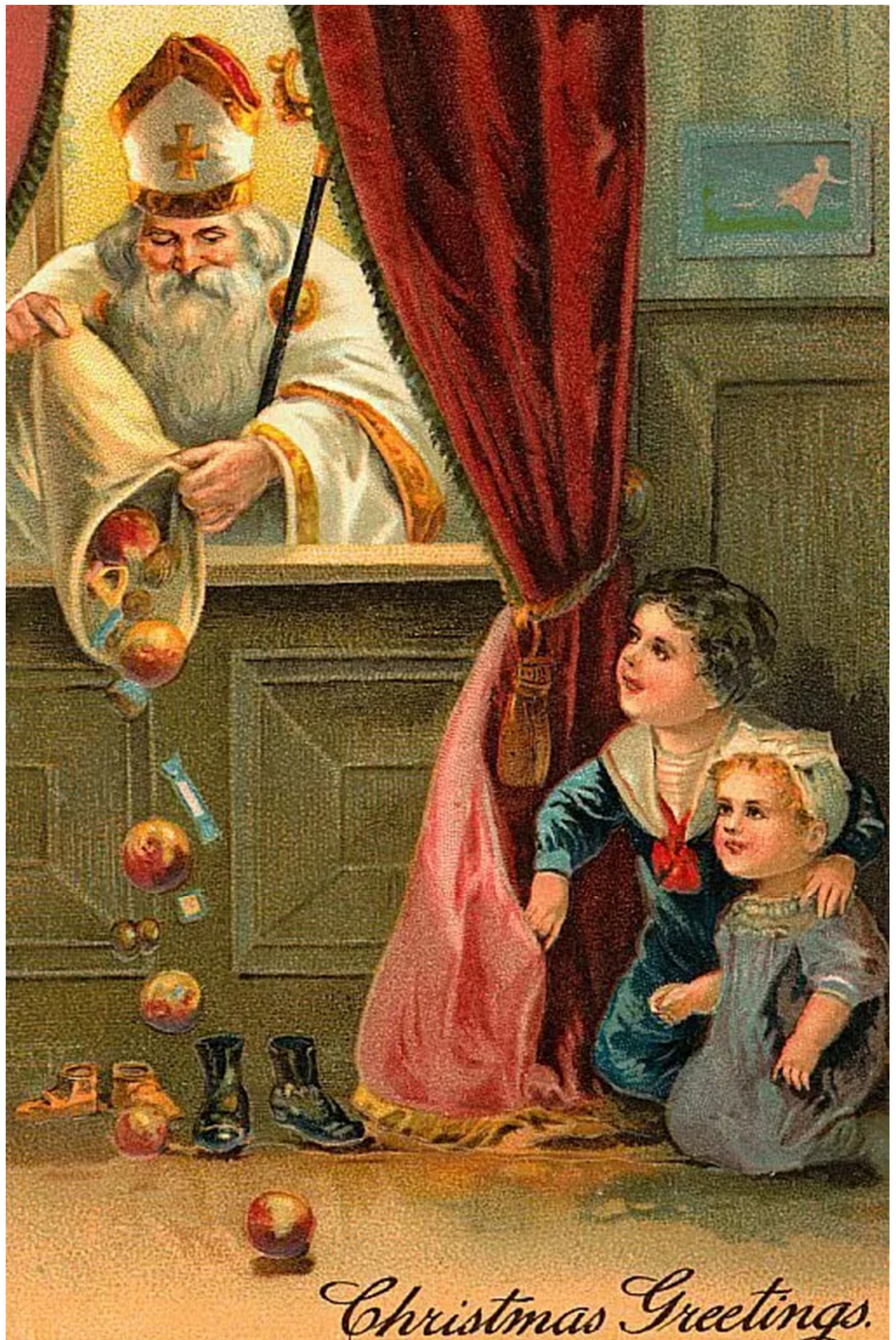
Christe eleison (2x)

Kyrie eleison (2x)

Children's Advent Story:

Rev. Sharon





Christmas Greetings.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Finding our Place by Thomas Merton

Humans have a responsibility to their own time not as if they could seem to stand outside it and donate various spiritual and material benefits to it from a position of compassionate distance.

Humans have a responsibility to find themselves where they are, in their own proper time and pace in the history to which they belong and to which they must inevitably contribute either their response or their evasions, either truth and act, or mere slogan and gesture.

Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying,

People: Thanks be to God.



Praying the Psalms:

Psalm 85: 1-2. 8-13 (inclusive NRSV)

Presider: You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**People: You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

Presider: I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**People: Truly, your salvation is very near to those who
fear you, that your glory may dwell in our
land.**

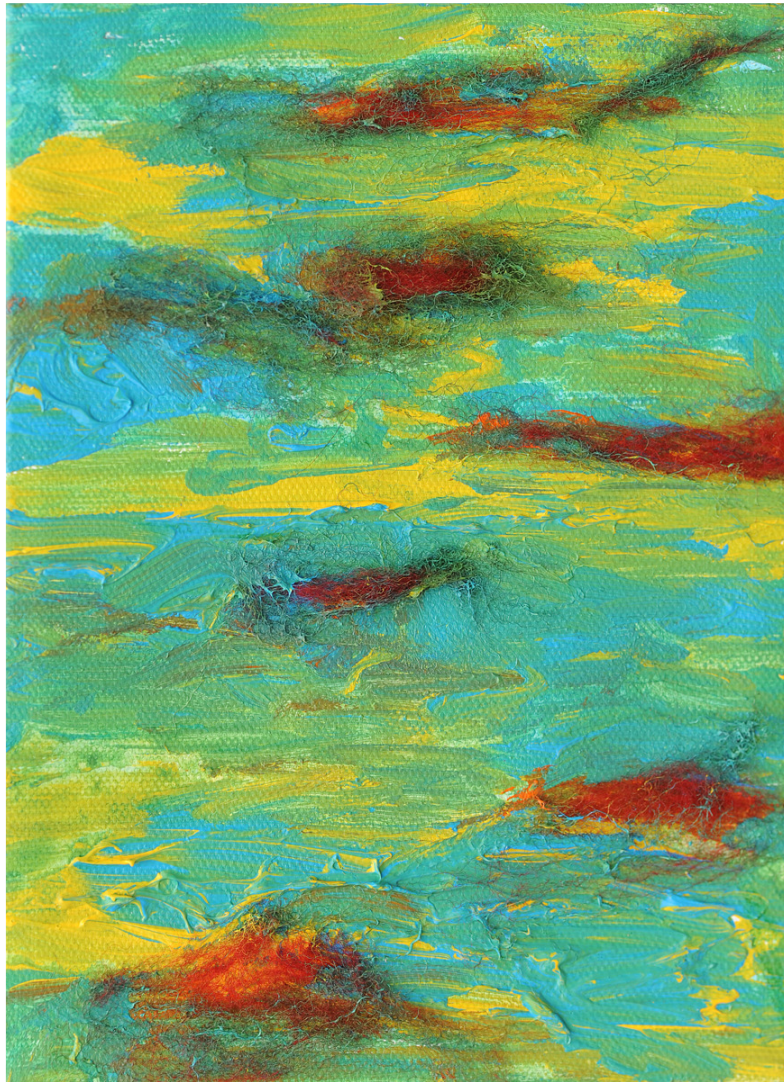
Presider: Steadfast love and faithfulness have met
together; righteousness and peace have kissed
each other.

**People: Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from
heaven.**

Presider: The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**People: Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

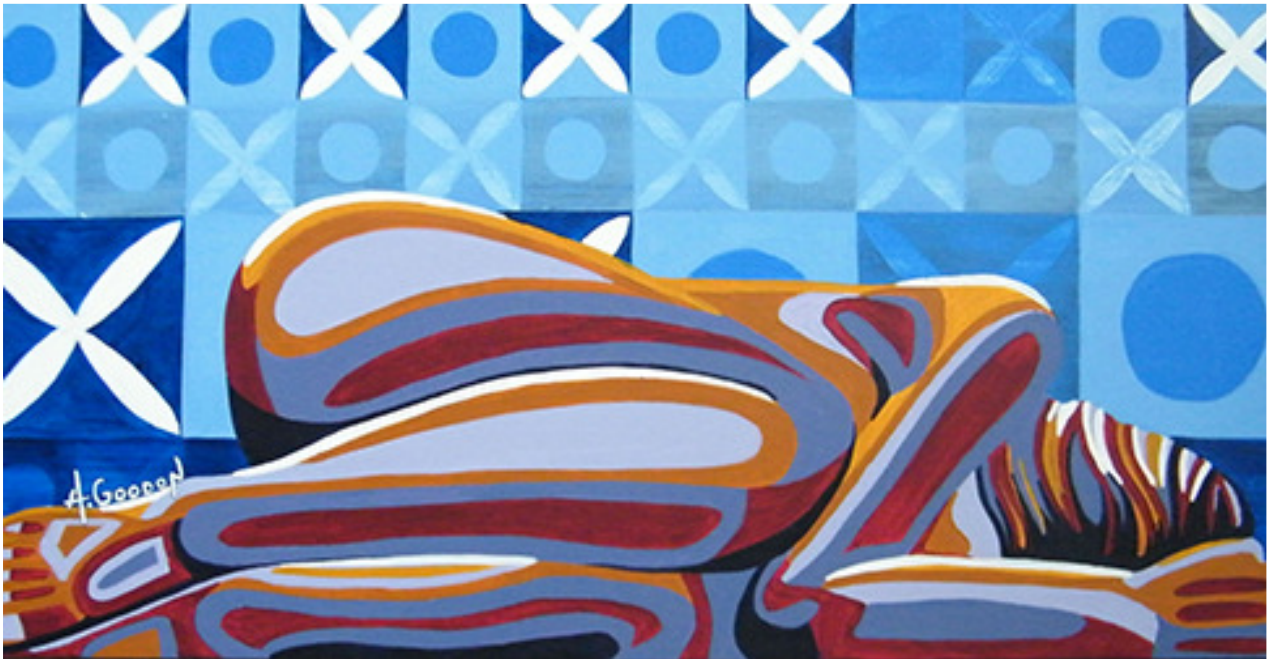
Amen.



Artist: Sylvia Wuensche-Wienands

Second Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep.



Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying

All: Thanks to be God

Artist: Angella Goodon

Gospel Hymn: Comfort Comfort All My People

Comfort comfort all My people
With the comfort of My Word
Speak it tender to My people
All your sins are taken away

Though your tears be rivers running
Though your tears be an ocean full
Though you cry with the hurt of living
Comfort comfort
Every valley shall be lifted
Every mountain shall be low
Every rough place will be smoother
Comfort comfort

Comfort comfort all My people
With the comfort of My Word
Speak it tender to My people
All your sins are taken away

Gospel Hymn: Comfort Comfort All My People

Though we fracture God's creation
Though we stand so far apart
Though we fail to love each other
Comfort comfort
Every wall will crack and crumble
Every stranger will be friend
Every one embrace another
Comfort comfort

Comfort comfort all My people
With the comfort of My Word
Speak it tender to My people
All your sins are taken away

Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 1-8

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark

People: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord..



Presider: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel Hymn, continued:

Comfort comfort all My people
With the comfort of My Word
Speak it tender to My people
All your sins are taken away

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Affirmation of Faith

Presider: Moses said,

All: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Presider: And Jesus affirmed:

All: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, And with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment, the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

All: Spirit of God, search our hearts.

Prayers of the People



Confession

Presider: Let us in silence confess our faults and
admit our frailty.

Before God, with the People of God

**All: We confess to our brokenness;
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the Life of the world.**

Presider: May God forgive us
Christ renew us
And the Spirit enable us to grow in love.

All: Amen

(Iona Abbey Worship Book 2011)

Presider: As our Saviour taught us,
let us pray in the language of our hearts,
as we say:

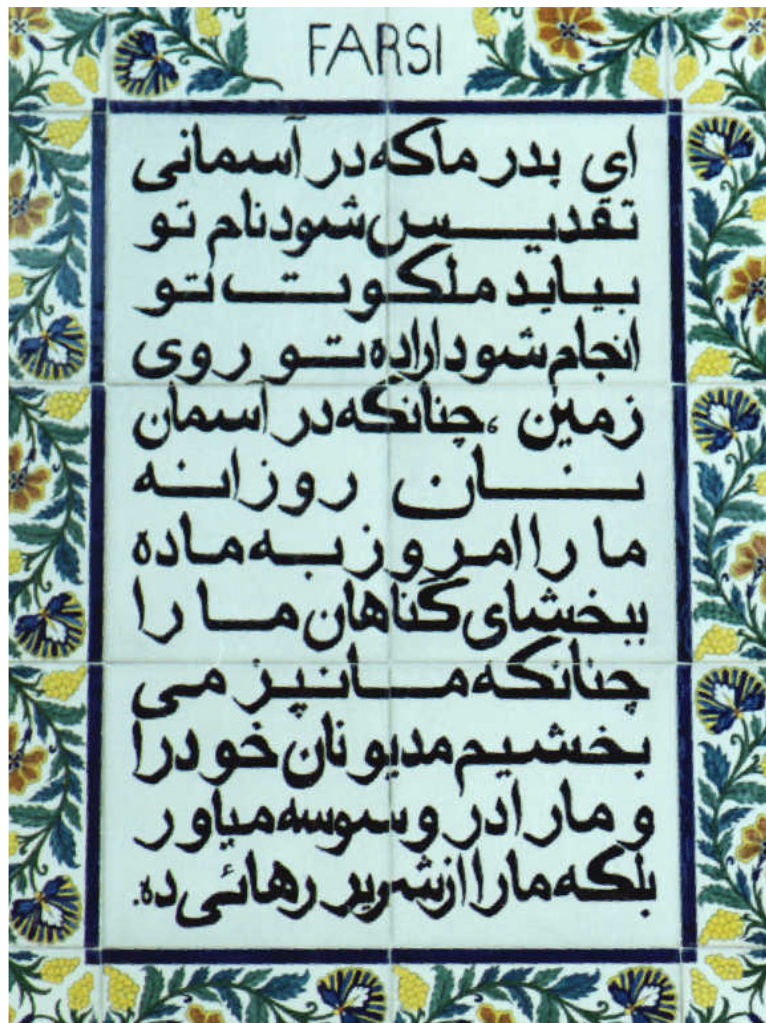
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**



Announcements:

See website for more details:
<https://www.saint-catherines.org>

The Silent Night Project

A Virtual Congregational Recording.

Dear Members and Friends of St. Catherine's Church,
We are excited to attempt the Virtual Congregational Recording of Silent Night project! It would be so nice to see the whole congregation sing together (virtually) during this very different Christmas Eve Service.



Blessing our financial pledges:

Presider: Gracious and loving God,

**All: Giver of all that is good and true and
 beautiful and life-giving.**

Presider: These cards represent our sweat, they
 represent our lives, they represent our
 dreams.

**All: The pledges which we make on them are
 but tokens of the awesome gifts that have
 been given to us and they are pledged in
 thanksgiving for all we have received, for all
 we have been inspired to be, for all we are
 challenged to become, in this place.**

Presider: May these be our offerings to you, the first
 fruits of all we have and not what is left
 over.

**All: May they be sacred, holy, yet earthy, filled
 with possibilities. As we watch our
 offerings each week come to your table,
 may we see our very selves being part of
 this offering. A people on the way,
 followers of Christ. Amen**

Closing Hymn: People, Look East! The Time Is Near

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad; though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength, the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.



Dismissal

Priest: Let us bless the Lord

People: Thanks to be God



Coffee Time Follows @ Noon – 12:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting by
video: <https://zoom.us/j/93034140745>

Or using your Zoom App by in putting
the Meeting ID:
930 3414 0745

Or by phone: (778) 907 2071, with
the Meeting ID:
930 3414 0745

For assistance:

Please email Natasha at scadmin@shaw.ca

